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nations and keep them from further contests there is need of books that will set the facts clearly before legislators and diplomats without prejudice and passion, without recrimination or partisan leanings. The writer must know his subject thoroughly, be acquainted with the best authorities, understand the leading languages in order to get information at first hand and at least try to be impartial in the use of his materials. Most of these requirements are met by Mr. Dominian, whose volume of some 375 pages, illustrated with colored maps and charts in the text, has been brought out by the American Geographical Society of New York.

Mr. Leon Dominian, by descent Armenian, by birth a Turkish citizen, is a graduate of Roberts College, Constantinople. Neither Slav, German, Frenchman nor Briton, he has the advantage of freedom from those influences of nationality and environment so difficult to neutralize in questions that affect the leading nations in the world war. But he has also striven to avoid the expression of personal opinions and keep objective. His thesis in the main is the influence of geography, the "persistent action of the land" upon historical events like the movements of peoples and the rise and fall of nations, in contrast with the apparent influence of ambitious conquerors and selfish, greedy commonwealths. His second object is indicated by the title: to discuss the linguistic areas in Europe and Asia Minor and their relation to the actual boundaries fixed by various treaties in the past, with the idea that any coming compacts should recognize the necessity of keeping them in mind so as to eliminate as far as possible the seeds of future wars. Modern examples of failure to observe these precautions are notably the arrangements made by the Allies after the Napoleonic wars, the granting of Venetia and Lombardy to Austria after 1859 and the forced scission of Alsace-Lorraine from France in 1871. But more important to American readers is the light thrown on the Balkan situation, that of Poland and of Turkey in Europe and Asia by his definitions of the limits of various tongues and the part these languages and dialects of languages play in national and international politics. The way in which mountain chains, rivers, deserts and wide arable lands in conjunction with language have affected peoples in Europe and Asia Minor and produced present conditions of war and peace forms the body of his message, if indeed, a sober mass of statements can be called a message. Instruction agreeably conveyed would better hit the mark. As to the present:

"Considered from the broad standpoint of human migrations . . . the star performers are Russia and Germany, and the issue is between these two nations. The grouping of European nations with Russia is a mere result of Germany's preponderating strength. The end of the conflict will necessarily witness the recasting of alliances along with changes of frontier lines. For at the bottom of it all the fight is between Slav and Teuton. It is a grim and unrelenting struggle for existence that is shaping itself into one of the world's fiercest racial contests. . . . It is the turn of Russians, Poles, Bohemians, Slovenes, Serbians and Croats slowly to crowd on the descendants of the blue-eyed, flaxen-haired barbarians representing Germanic peoples. This Slavonic power has always been blocked by the leading power in the West." [France, Great Britain, Germany in succession.] "Germany's expansion is a natural phenomenon. The country is overpopulated. It must expand. The sea is a barrier to its westerly expansion. The north is uninviting. The south is being drained of its resources by

active and intelligent inhabitants. The *Drang nach Osten* of German imperialism is therefore inevitable. The line of least resistance points to the east, where fertile territory awaits development. Little wonder, then, that the attention of Germany's far-sighted statesmen has been directed toward oriental countries whose wealth of natural resources and genial climate combine to render them ideally attractive.

This is the vision which has floated alluringly before the minds of German and Austrian statesmen, working hand in hand, Austria paving the way in the Balkans, Germany forcing herself successfully in the control of Asia Minor which to-day is a German colony in all but name. . . . With the history of the past hundred years in mind, statesmen engaged in the task of framing peace treaties may well heed the lessons taught by political geography. They might then conclude that greater possibilities of enduring peace exist whenever the delimitation of new frontiers is undertaken with a view to segregating linguistic areas within separate national borders."

The volume is a very useful commentary on the condition of Europe, containing a wealth of information not easily obtained elsewhere. [*New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1917. \$3.00.*]

*Early English Portrait Miniatures in the Collection of the Duke of Buccleugh.* Edited by Charles Holme, with text by H. A. Kennedy, the small folio with many colored and other prints forms a special number of the London *Studio*. It results from an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum of the Duke of Buccleugh's miniatures inherited and for the most part collected by Walter Francis, fifth Duke of Buccleugh, who died in 1884. Plate II [in colors] shows three Holbeins, including one of Hans himself in his 45th year, dated 1543. Kings Edward VI and Henry VIII, Oliver Cromwell, Charles II, James II and William III, Peter the Great, Queens Catherine Howard, Jane Seymour, Elizabeth and Anne are among the royalties, Sir Thomas More, William Drummond of Hawthornden, Sir Philip Sidney, Sir Kenelm Digby, Sir John Suckling, John Milton, Thomas Otway, Edmund Waller, John Oldham, Samuel Butler, Andrew Marvell, Alexander Pope, Sam. Pepys, John Evelyn, Edward Gibbon and Samuel Johnson are the writers represented by miniatures sometimes correctly attributed, sometimes not. There are Lords and Ladies of high degree, a curious miniature of the Earl of Cumberland in the strange dress and armor of the Queen's Champion decorated with golden suns and stars, the King of Bohemia, etc. Interesting is the portrait of Cromwell and beautiful is the colored likeness by Hilliard of his wife Alicia Brandon.

The little faces are well worth the study of portrait painters although their chief value is for the historian. [*New York: John Lane Company, 1917.*]

#### PRIZES FOR PAINTINGS AT WASHINGTON

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., has received another generous allowance for prizes to American painters from one of the Trustees, former Senator William A. Clark. While representing Montana in the Senate he took a deep interest in the Corcoran Gallery and since New York became his residence he has not forgotten the institution at the Capital which has owed so much to his liberality. The Corcoran proposes to open an exhibition of American paintings in December, next winter, and Senator Clark has given five thousand dollars to be distributed in prizes.

Circulars and entry cards for the Seventh Exhi-